




Speech By
Ann Leahy

MEMBER FOR WARREGO

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Vegetation Management

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.42 pm): There is great concern in rural and regional Queensland and the housing sector in South-East Queensland about the Palaszczuk Labor government's election commitments to place further restrictions in relation to vegetation management. This morning, the Premier would not guarantee that her government's proposed laws would not increase the costs of new homes in South-East Queensland. Effectively, the Premier has made an election promise to increase the cost of new homes in her own members' electorates.

We know that the Property Council said in 2016 that it was not even consulted on the unintended consequences of the amendments to urban development. Chris Mountford of the Property Council said—

... the reality is that it will directly affect the cost of housing in urban areas, like South East Queensland ... These proposed laws actually go well beyond reversing the changes made to the Vegetation Management Act by the previous government.

They introduce significant new environmental offset requirements that will add thousands of dollars to the cost of new housing across Queensland.

There we have it: a Labor government making the Australian dream of owning a home more expensive owing to its vegetation management laws. Why does the Labor government want to increase the cost of living for battlers, for the mums and dads, in South-East Queensland?

No wonder the e-petition against further vegetation management restrictions is gaining 200 signatures per day. It is not just the farmers who are concerned; it is those who want to get into the housing market in South-East Queensland. I thank Scott and Adma Sargood of my electorate for this petition and for getting the message out about the importance of being able to fodder harvest in the mulga lands. Mulga regenerates quickly. It grows back. It thickens quickly and it does not grow along the Great Barrier Reef. Landholders manage their mulga because it is like a living haystack. Scott and Adma have put up a massive sign on their property at Halton to tell the facts of how mulga is being used as fodder. I table a photograph of Scott with that sign.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Western Times*, dated 15 February 2018, titled 'Grazers take a stand' [305](#).

Today, I need to give those opposite a little lesson in geography. Not all the catchments in Queensland run to the Great Barrier Reef. In fact, 75 per cent of the land mass of Queensland does not go within a bull's roar of the Great Barrier Reef—a geographical fact that many members opposite had a lot of trouble with in 2016. The members opposite should get out a map of the Queensland catchments before they start talking about vegetation management and the Great Barrier Reef.